

## REMARKS

Favorable consideration and allowance of the claims of the present application are respectfully requested.

In the present Official Action, the Examiner rejected Claims 1-4 and 6-9 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as allegedly anticipated by Dodrill (US Patent No. 6,807,565). Furthermore, Claims 5, 10-12 and 21-23 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over Dodrill in view of Lee (US Patent No. 7,111,044). Claims 13-20 were additionally rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over Dodrill in view of Lee and further in view of Kato (US Patent No. 7,039,675).

As a preliminary matter, applicants amend the specification at ¶[0005] to correct a minor informality. Respectfully, no new matter is being entered by this amendment.

With respect to the rejections of Claims 1-4 and 6-9 as allegedly anticipated by Dodrill, applicants respectfully traverse with amendment.

Specifically, Claim 1 and 6 are being amended herein to further clarify the present invention and to highlight the method for establishing a voice on demand private message chat (herein “VODPMC”) between first and second client devices. The first and second client devices adapted for communicating via a text chat session, the method comprising the steps of:

at a first client device:

providing an indication as to the availability of a second client device for receiving a voice on demand private message chat;

selecting said second client;

receiving an audio input message from a user of said first client device; and,  
responsive to said selecting, transmitting said audio input message to said second client device, and,

at said second client device:

receiving said audio input message and temporarily storing said received audio input message for access by a user of said second client device; and,

providing an indicator that said audio message has been received from said first client, said indicator integrated with text received from said first client device; and

rendering said audio input message,

wherein said second client device can receive and play back said audio input message via said private message chat without interrupting said text chat session.

Respectfully, no new matter is being entered by this amendment. First of all, it is known that IM sessions or chat sessions permit text conversations to be held between two or more devices in a semi-synchronous fashion. The present invention however, is directed to voice on demand private message chat (VODPMC) that may be integrated with an existing chat session. Particularly, full support for the inventive features of providing the VODPMC indicator being integrated with text (e.g., semi-synchronous text) received from the first client device may be found in ¶[0034] - ¶[0037] of the present specification in support of Figs. 4A-4C. For example, as described in these paragraphs, and as seen in Figs. 4A-4C described herein, the notification (forwarding) of a semi-synchronous voice chat message occurs during a text chat session. However, unlike Dodrill, the text chat session is not interrupted to accommodate the voice on demand message indication.

Dodrill, in one instance, does not provide such an indicator being integrated with text. Rather, as described in Dodrill at col. 8, lines 23-53, there is described how a new instant message (IM) session is established for the receiving party when a first user wants to initiate a voice communication. That is, as specifically described in Dodrill at col. 8, lines 21-27, the application server establishes a new session “brownie” (a data record) to enable the voice application server to “interrupt the existing session with a new session providing the instant message.” As further indicated in Dodrill at col. 8, lines 36-39, once a new HTML page is forwarded to the proxy server of a receiving device, a new HTML page is generated that causes a prompt to be “played” for the receiving party. As interpreted by applicants, this indication comprises an audio indication that will instruct the recipient how to handle the message, e.g., listen, save or resume the current session, for example, by selecting a corresponding numeral.

Thus, the Dodrill system and methodology is not as comprehensive as it must interrupt an existing IM or text chat communication session in order to inform a receiving party of the new audio message. As such, Dodrill does not teach or suggest providing an indicator integrated with text received from said first client device.

For these reasons, the present invention as claimed in at least independent Claims 1

and 6 is patentably distinct from Dodrill and the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the rejections of Claims 1 and 6.

Moreover, with respect to remaining independent Claims 7, 11, 21 and 23, similar amendments are being made to effect the changes as made to Claims 1 and 6 discussed above.

Respectfully, the other references Lee and Kato do not make up the deficiencies of Dodrill.

Lee is directed to chat interfaces for mobile devices with no integration or suggestion of Voice on demand capability. Kato is directed to a multi-terminal video conferencing system. Thus, these references do not teach the concept of enabling seamless voice on demand chat via chat session interfaces with video on demand indication being integrated in text, without interruption of a session.

Having not provided all of the features of amended Claims 1, 6, 7, 11, 21 and 23, Dodrill does not anticipate the present invention. As such, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the rejections of these Claims 1, 6, 7, 11, 21 and 23 and all claims either directly or indirectly dependent thereon.

This communication is believed to be fully responsive to the Office Action and every effort has been made to place the application in condition for allowance. A favorable Office Action is hereby earnestly solicited.

If a telephone interview would be of assistance in advancing prosecution of the subject application, the Examiner is requested to telephone the number provided below.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Steven Fischman', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

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